

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in response to the rejections that were presented in the Final Office Action dated April 9, 2007 (the “**Final Office Action**”), which were affirmed-in-part and reversed-in-part in the Decision on Appeal dated April 28, 2011 (the “**Decision on Appeal**”).

Claims 1-46 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, and 8-45 have been canceled in this paper. Claims 47-68 have been added in this paper.

Accordingly, claims 2-4, 6-7, and 46-68 are now pending.

The amendments add no new matter. While not conceding that the cited reference(s) qualify as prior art, but instead to expedite prosecution, Applicant has chosen to respond as follows. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable in view of the following remarks and the above amendments, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending rejections.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Following the Decision on Appeal, claims 1-45 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,026,077 issued to Iwata (“**Iwata**”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,832,197 issued to Houji (“**Houji**”), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,708,209 issued to Ebata et al. (“**Ebata**”). In this paper, Applicant has canceled claims 1, 5, and 8-45, rendering the rejection of those claims moot.

Claims 2-4, 6-7, and 46 and New Claims 47-68

The previous rejection of independent claim 46 was REVERSED in the Decision on Appeal. Moreover, the limitations of claim 46 are absent from the cited portions of the references as previously explained by Applicant in the Reply Brief dated September 24, 2008. In this paper, Applicant has amended claims 2-4 and 6-7 to depend on independent claim 46.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 46 and claims 2-4 and 6-7 dependent thereon are allowable under § 103(a).

Applicant also respectfully submits that new claims 47-68 are allowable at least for similar reasons.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5097.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for such extensions. The undersigned hereby authorizes that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, be charged to deposit account no. 502306.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 on June 28, 2011 (CT) by being (a) transmitted via the USPTO's electronic filing system; or (b) transmitted by facsimile to 571-273-8300; or (c) deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope with sufficient postage addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

/ Cyrus F. Bharucha /
Cyrus F. Bharucha

June 28, 2011
Date

Respectfully submitted,

/ Cyrus F. Bharucha /

Cyrus F. Bharucha
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 42,324
512-439-5097
512-439-5099 (fax)